

HOUSE BILL 2232  
By Buck

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 11, relative to continuing education requirements for professional bail bonding agents.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 11, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

Section 40-11-401. Each professional bail bondsman or bail bonding agent, individually, as a partner, or an officer or director of a corporation as defined in Section 40-11-301, beginning on January 1, 1997, shall obtain eight (8) hours of continuing education credits during each twelve (12) month period. For the purposes of this part, "agent" means a professional bail bondsman or professional bail bonding agent.

Section 40-11-402. Beginning on January 15, 1998, each agent shall file annually, along with the first semiannual report as described in Section 40-11-303, a certificate of compliance of continuing education with the clerk of the criminal or civil court of each county in which the agent is furnishing bail or bonds securing costs and fines. This certificate shall show in detail the names, locations, dates and hours of each course attended, along with the signature of the agent attesting that all continuing educational requirements have been completed.

Section 40-11-403. If an agent does not obtain the required eight (8) continuing education hour credits within each twelve (12) month period as described in Section 40-11-401, and have the necessary certificate of compliance filed with the clerk of the court by January 15

of each year, the clerk shall notify the judge of the court who shall then suspend the agent from furnishing bail or bonds securing costs and fines, and remove the agent's name from the list of qualified and approved professional bondsmen, as described in Section 40-11-124, until the agent completes the continuing education credits and properly files the required certificate with the court.

Section 40-11-403. (a) The Tennessee Association of Professional Bail Agents shall provide all continuing education courses, and shall issue certificates of compliance to certify attendance of the agents to the clerks of the courts. The certificates shall be prepared and delivered to all agents who have completed the requirements by December 15 of the year before filing is required. In no event shall a certificate be issued to an agent who has not completed the attendance requirements for that calendar year.

(b) The Tennessee Association of Professional Bail Agents shall either provide or contract for a minimum of eight (8) hours of such continuing education classes to be held on a regular basis in each of the grand divisions of the state of Tennessee and may provide additional classes as necessary. A schedule of these classes shall be provided to all agents. The association may not charge more than two hundred forty dollars (\$240) annually for the eight (8) hours of continuing education, and the cost of any course with less than eight (8) hours shall be prorated.

(c) In prescribing requirements for continuing education as prerequisite for issuance of a certificate of compliance, the Tennessee Association of Professional Bail Agents shall, at a minimum:

- (1) define the basic requirements of participation in this program;
- (2) delineate and evaluate any other qualifying programs;
- (3) establish a comprehensive system of control and reporting; and
- (4) extend the time for which agents are required to comply with continuing education requirements for reasons of health, military service, or other reasonable causes.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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